THE SHAKERITE

April 28, 2006 ◦ Volume 76 ◦ Issue 8 ◦ Shaker Heights High School ◦ 15911 Aldersyde Drive ights, Ohio 44120

The Ones to envy

Find out how Jealous One's Envy, a hip-hop dance group founded in Shaker's own dance studio, has started on the path to fame after almost two years of hard work.

LIMELIGHT, PAGE 8

KICKING UP A CHANGE

SEE HOW THE "ORGANIZATION OF PARENTS FOR SOCCER EXCELLENCE" HELPED ENSURE THE MEN'S PROGRAM WOULD HAVE ITS FOURTH HEAD COACH IN NINE YEARS.

PAGE 15

CONSTRUCTING COSTUMES

FIND OUT HOW SHAKER ACTORS END UP LOOKING SO GOOD. THE TRUTH BEHIND COSTUME DESIGNING AND HOW THE THEATER DEPARTMENT IS COPING WITHOUT KELLY MYERS.

PAGE 14

A NIGHT IN THE LIFE OF THE BOE

SEVEN MONTHS OF ATTENDING BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS HAVE LEFT TWO SENIOR SHAKERITE EDITORS WITH A LOT TO SAY. READ THEIR COLUMN TO REFLECT.

PAGE 12

COVER SHOT

Shaker senior Aaron Patterson and his twin brother Andrew practice for their guest spot in April's Modern Dance Club show titled "You'll Never Know What You're Going To Get." Andrew attends Solon High School. Their group, Jealous One's Envy, will go to Atlanta at the end of June to dance for Sean "Diddy" Combs' newest artist, Cheri Dennis. "It's all starting to pay off," Andrew said.

What's Inside

04.28.06

EDITORS' NOTE

Last reflections

Spring is here, the rooms are getting hotter and the seniors are getting restless. And our last month as Shakerite editors in chief has arrived. In the spirit of our departure, we'd like to share our final words of wisdom for those leaving and those still stuck here.

AVIVA ARIEL

To the seniors, who we know don't want to read the entire column, we'll address you first. It's been a great four years. Whether you spent the time sleeping through classes or as the president of the Latin club, we have faith that our graduating class is going to do amazing things. Good luck, '06!

Students - specifically those of you looking forward to more time at the high school, a few tips for getting through. First, no matter what you choose for your college in your tenth grade project, you don't have to spend the next years of your life pushing yourself to do activities you have no interest in simply to get into college. It isn't worth it.

EMILY GRANNIS

Work hard and play (but maybe not so hard). Most importantly, listen to everyone's input but then make your own decision. This applies to everyone from your friends, counselor and parents to your psychic and that random guy on MySpace who thinks he knows everything.

Teachers - you've pushed us to do things we often didn't want to do (and sometimes it worked out, sometimes not so much). Some of you have had a true impact on our lives that we'll remember as we send our own kids off to high school and others of you have made high school, shall we say, interesting. But whichever kind of teacher you are, you've undoubtedly taught us something that we wouldn't have learned without you. (While we're reminiscing, we'd like to give a shout out to Mrs. Blair, Mr. Parker, Ms. Snyder and, of course, Natalie.)

Administrators - we've used this space in the past to point out your shortcomings, but all through it, you've been supportive and receptive, even if we are just uppity 17-year-olds. In particular, Mr. Griffith, without you as our principal, The Shakerite would probably have been shut down by now. Peggy, without you around we'd have no connections and no one to gossip about the school board with. And of course, Mrs. Blattner. We're going where we are because of you.

Parents - relax. Your kids will be fine. And if not, at least they won't blame their over-bearing parents. This community is known for promoting a certain kind of success and we just urge you to remember that your kids are wonderful - even if they're not the starting quarterback or the valedictorian.

As we leave our beloved Shaker Heights High School, we hope that we've influenced this school over the past four years.

We've worked hard in our classes, our extracurriculars and this paper to bring you, the readers, information we feel is important, and we hope you've enjoyed it as much as we have.

No free pass on '06 levy

With only "cautious optimism" about passing the 9.9 mill levy placed on the May ballot, campaigners discuss what could be Shaker's fate if it fails.

PAGE 4, NOTEWORTHY

Editorial board endorsement

PAGE 11, SHAKER SPEAKS

IN A LEAGUE OF HER OWN

Cara Murphy, an eighth grader at the middle school, is the only girl on the all-male SMS varsity baseball squad. If she joins the high school team, she would become the third female in Shaker history to snag a spot in an all-male sport. Check out this profile to discover exactly what life behind the plate is like for one Raider girl.

PAGE 16, RAIDER ZONE

The Shaker Heights Teachers' Association is proud of Shaker's achieving students

NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALISTS Ian Bardenstein, William Feldman, Morgan Grossman-McKee, Matthew Herzfeld, Braeden Kepner-Kraus, Lavinia Pavlish, Hazel Rigby, Ben Schnur, Allison Vitkus, Diana Wang and Lauren Weiss

NATIONAL MERIT COMMENDED STUDENTS Anderson Albano, Avi Bakshani, Halle Bauer, Nicolas Bethoux, Stephen Cabrera, Max Gardener, Joseph Gibbons, Rebecca Glazer, Emily Grannis, Brandon Hemmelgarn, Betsy Hogg, Alexander Hoover, Jason Immerman, Celia Kaplan, David Kohn, Sarah Ledford, Dinah Lewis, Brittany Mosely, Amanda Murphy, Julia Shatten, Katherine Sommers, Shan Tie and Brian Weber.

NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT SEMIFINALISTS Nicole Feeling, Brittany Mosely, Corbin Sykes and Malik Wiggins

NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT COMMENDED STUDENTS Kelly Jackson and Christopher Whatley

NATIONAL HISPANIC COMMENDED STUDENTS Ian Bardenstein and Stephen Cabrera

The Shakerite

Volume 76 • Issue 8

• 2006 Editorial Board of *The Shakerite*. All rights reserved

Aviva Ariel* Emily Grannis* **Editors in chief** • Carrie Reese Scott Underwood **Noteworthy Editors** • Wesley Lowery* Lena Newman* **Shaker Speaks Editors** Sarah Brandon Lauren Weiss* **The Core Editors** • Kate Guess Miriam Moore **The Beat Editors** • Josh Davidson Liz Kantor **Limelight Editors** • David O'Connell Mike Young **The Raider Zone Editors** • Allison Scharfstein **This Month Editor** • Jaclyn Inglis Dan Snider **Photo Editors** • Allie Jennings Bobby O'Connor **Design Editors** • Joanna Mitchell **Art Editor** • Sarah Weiss **Business Manager** • Amanda Orr **Assistant Editor** • Natalie Sekicky **Adviser** • Teddy Cahill Alyssa Cohen Courtney McClelland Meghan Thompson **Reporters** • Yanni Davros Allison Vitkus **Artist** * Denotes editorial board member • **Letters** Letters to the editor must be signed and may not exceed 300 words. Letters, subscription and advertising inquiries should be delivered to The Shakerite office in Room 229, mailed to: The Shakerite, 15911 Aldersyde Drive, Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120, or emailed to shakerite@shaker.org. The Shakerite reserves the right to reject or edit any letter to the editor • **Advertising Inquiries** Advertising questions should be directed to Sarah Weiss at shakerite@shaker.org or 216.295.6210 • **Disclaimer** Opinions expressed in The Shakerite articles are those of their respective authors, and do not represent the views of The Shakerite, Shaker Heights High School or the Shaker Heights City School District. The "Rite Idea" presents the views of the editorial board; however, it may not reflect the opinion of The Shakerite staff. The Shakerite is a public forum published nine times a year for and by students of Shaker Heights High School. Readers may reach The Shakerite at 216.295.6210. The Shakerite is a member of the National Scholastic Press Association, Columbia Scholastic Press Association and Northeast Ohio Scholastic Press Association.

NSPA

ESCAPE to us @ 470 Northfield Road, Bedford OH 44146 1-800-808-3621
ESCAPE
internet and games...beyond the ordinary
Action Packed Multiplayer Gaming
Tournaments
Private Parties
Internet Access
Ladies Free on Thursday
First Hour Free on First Visit
Hourly Rates Members
$5.00 hour Tuesday - Sunday
$3.00 hour Monday
ESCAPE Pass (6 hours of play) $20
ESCAPE Elite Pass (12 hours of play) $40
Regular Store Hours
Monday -Thursday Noon - 11:00pm*
Friday & Saturday Noon - 1:00am*
Sunday 2:00pm - 10:00pm
Hourly Rates Nonmember
$8.00 hour Tuesday - Sunday
$4.00 hour Monday
ESCAPE Pass (6 hours of play) $30
ESCAPE Elite Pass (12 hours of play) $50
www.escapeplay.net

This Month

04.28.06

SPIDERMAN SHOOTS IN CLEVELAND

Clevelanders have been worried about Green Goblin sightings downtown, and the city has enlisted Spiderman to swing in and take care of business. Well sort of. The Council of Smaller Enterprises and the Greater Cleveland Film Commission have announced that "Spiderman 3" will film exterior scenes in Cleveland at the end of April and beginning of May. Cleveland has been the backdrop to several films, including "American Splendor," "Happy Gilmore" and "Welcome to Collinwood," but "Spiderman 3" will be the largest production yet. The shooting has shut down several downtown streets, including Euclid Avenue and E. Ninth Street.

BETTER SLEEP MONTH

With all the ridiculous holidays eligible to celebrate, this month-long observance in May might actually come in handy. With the final stretch of school, AP exams and finals around the corner, a month that endorses long, restful hours of sleep is just what the schedule gurus prescribed. Better Sleep Month is here to point out the importance of sleep and ways a better night's rest can be achieved.

FIVE WAYS TO GET A BETTER NIGHT'S SLEEP

1 Determine how much sleep you need to be fully alert the next day and aim to get at least the minimum sleep requirement each night.

2 Reduce the noise in the bedroom in order to create a more ideal, relaxed sleeping environment.

3 Make sure the mattress and pillows are comfortable to give the support needed for a good night's sleep.

4 Engage in some kind of relaxation before bed, whether it be reading a book or listening to music. Avoid activities that are mentally or physically stimulating right before bed.

5 Avoiding eating right before bed, especially food high in caffeine.

SHORT ON SLEEP

8.5 to 9.25 hours of sleep are needed by the average adolescent each night.

11 p.m. or later is the typical time for a high school student to fall asleep.

26 percent of adolescents get 6.5 hours of sleep or fewer per night, while only 15 percent get the recommended 8.5 hours.

65 percent of Americans lose sleep due to stress.

47 million Americans are affected by sleep deprivation.

264 hours is the longest recorded stretch without sleep. In 1964, Randy Gardner, then 17, stayed awake that long with the help of friends and a pinball machine.

MAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May is Better Sleep Month	1 AP Exams: English 8 a.m. French 12 p.m. V & JV & 9th grade BB Admiral King 4:15 p.m. Band Boosters 7 p.m. JV TN Eastlake 4 p.m.	2 AP Exams: Spanish 8 a.m. Computer Science 8 a.m. Statistics 12 p.m. BB Lakewood 4:15 p.m. M LAX Cleveland Hts. JV TN Revere 4 p.m. Maurice Rucker turns 17	3 AP Exams: Calculus 8 a.m. World History 12 p.m. Spring Choir Concert 7:30 p.m.	Bird Day 4 AP Exams: English Lit 8 a.m. German 12 p.m. VBB Garfield Hts. 4:15 p.m. V & JV M LAX University 5 p.m. V TN LEL Tourn. 8 a.m.	5 AP Exams: U.S. History 8 a.m. European History 12 p.m. Progress Reports mailed Last day for seniors V & JV TN St. Edwards 4 p.m. M & W Track Brush Relays 4 p.m.	6 SAT and Subject Tests 7:45 a.m. - 1 p.m. Crew at 3 Rivers Regatta SGORR Senior Party V & JV TN Canton Central Catholic 10 a.m.
7	8 AP Exams: Biology 8 a.m. Physics 12 p.m. Senior Project begins How To Play Sports In College 7:30 p.m. V BB Cleveland Hts. 4:15 p.m.	9 AP Exams: Gov't 8 a.m. Sports Boosters 7:30 p.m. BOE meeting 1-5 p.m. M LAX Hoover V TN St. Ignatius 4 p.m. Kristen Walling turns 18	10 AP Exams: Chem 8 a.m. Env. Science 8 a.m. Psych 12 p.m. JV & 9th grade BB Mentor 4:15 p.m. SB Mentor 4:15 p.m.	11 AP Exams: MacroEcon 8 a.m. MicroEcon 12 a.m. V&JV W LAX Hawken 4:30 p.m.	12 AP Exams: Spanish Lit 8 a.m. Latin 12 p.m. Shakescenes 7 p.m. JV&9th grade BB Bedford 4:15 p.m. SB Bedford 4:15 p.m.	13 Crew at Midwest Regatta Prom 8 p.m. - 12 a.m. V M LAX Solon 1 p.m. John Fletcher turns 15
Mother's Day 14 After Prom 1 a.m. - 5 a.m.	Chocolate Chip Day 15 V&JV BB Fairport Harbor 4:15 p.m. SB Admiral King 4:15 p.m. Danniele Zucker turns 17	16 Student Council elections V&JV M LAX Kent Roosevelt 5 p.m. Market Day 5-6 p.m.	17 Rebecca Rackmill turns 15	Early Dismissal 18 Theatre Awards 8 p.m.	Bike to Work Day 19 Geranium Sale Pickup 5 p.m. - 8p.m. thru 5/20 Aaron Gobidas turns 18	20 Crew at Erie, Penn. Hessler Street Fair
21	22 Spring Sports Awards	23	24 Dana Smith turns 17	Towel Day 25	26 Jefferson Triozzi turns 16	Sunscreen Day 27
28	NO SCHOOL 29	Water a Flower Day 30	31			

KEY

M - men
W - women
BB - baseball
TN - tennis
SB - softball (played at Lomond)
LAX - lacrosse (played at Woodbury)

CELEBRATING THE TOWEL

On May 25, don't be shocked if you see otherwise ordinary people clinging to a bath towel. They're not going to the beach or working out in the gym. Rather they are celebrating Towel Day, a holiday created in 2001 to honor Douglas Adams, the author of "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy." In chapter three of the popular science fiction novel, Adams describes the importance of a towel; its practicality far surpasses any other item a hitchhiker could carry. A towel can be used as insulation from the cold tundra; strung up as a sail for a makeshift raft; soaked and rolled up as a weapon to combat mysterious creatures; or of course, used to dry yourself off. The towel also has psychological value. An observer who notes that a hitchhiker still has his towel after traversing the universe will be impressed by his organization and skill. So if you, too, adequately value the towel, don't be afraid to celebrate its awesomeness by having it on standby, all day May 25.

Ameusment park	Opening Date	Cost	Claim to fame
King's	April 15	$38	The park boasts the world's tallest, fastest, and only looping wooden roller coaster and the tallest drop thrill ride on the planet – 315 feet.
Cedar Point	May 6	$40	Named the Best Amusement Park in the World by "Amusement Today," Cedar Point has 16 roller coasters, including three of the world's top 10 steel coasters.
Geauga Lake	May 13	$25	Geauga Lake advertises as three parks in one. It has North America's largest water slide complex, along with a handful of rollercoasters and other thrill rides.

HESSLER STREET FAIR

Hippies are dead. Not! If you ever need a reminder of the days of acid dropping, Grateful Dead listening and Volkswagen driving, check out the Hessler Street fair May 20-21. Located on Hessler Street in University Circle, this weekend-long festival features everything from incense to pipes, jam bands and the people who should be partaking in such events. It has been happening since the '60s and has attracted huge crowds for decades. At Hessler, beards reach the floor and good vibes reach the sky. This event kicks off summer in Cleveland and should not be missed.

Compiled by Allison Scharfstein

MORE AP TESTS MANDATORY NEXT YEAR

Rumors that AP students will be required to take AP tests next year are catching students' attention. However, the change is not necessarily true for all classes. "In our AP classes, other than 12th grade Government and Psychology, students choose whether they will sit for the test," said Tim Mitchell, social studies department chairman. Tests will be required in math, science and English, however. Financial aid is available for help with test fees; students should see their guidance counselors for more information.

NoteWorthy

04.28.06

STUDENT VOLUNTEERS SHAN Tie, Katie Fishman, David Kohn and Reid Albano work on the levy campaign on a student awareness program. The group has been working with other high school students to reach out to their peers as well as recent Shaker graduates. Their goal is to increase awareness and voter participation on Election Day, May 2.

Bobby O'Connor • The Shakerite

9.9 MILL LEVY LOOMS LARGE

BY EMILY GRANNIS
EDITOR IN CHIEF

It's true that if at first you don't succeed, there's no shame in trying again. But in the case of failed school levies, there is plenty of pain to go around.

"Every facet of the school district would be affected," Superintendent Mark Freeman said. "We want to pass it on the first time so we don't disrupt anyone's education."

However, Freeman did say that if the 9.9 mill levy doesn't pass, the district would have to cut $14.5 million. To do so, administrators are considering reducing transportation and tutoring services, eliminating all-day kindergarten, increasing class sizes, reducing special education services and cutting electives, fine arts options, athletics and co-curricular activities.

According to Board of Education President Freda Levenson, "the programs that we value and that make Shaker a very strong and competitive school district would unfortunately be vulnerable."

"Scores and scores of employees would have to be laid off," Freeman said. Up to 15 percent of the district workforce could be cut.

If the levy does not pass, Shaker will have to cut $9 million from next year's budget and $15 million within two years from the annual $82 million budget. Even if the levy passes, the district is planning to cut $4.5 million to stay on target. They have already frozen wages for non-union workers, made some positions part-time and decreased before and after school programs.

The levy is expected to raise $8.5 million over the next three years.

Dr. Jim Rebitzer, chairman of Shaker's Finance and Audit Committee and chairman of the economics department at Case Western Reserve University, explained the district's tax situation in his Jan. 10 presentation.

"We have a very good school system and a very mediocre tax base in a political climate that requires most of [the money] to come from property taxes," he said.

"The Ohio state funding system essentially makes it impossible for school districts to not ask for a levy every three years," Rebitzer said. "All the school district does with these levies is what any sensible financial system would have them do."

Shaker resident Dan Hoffman, however, says he is aware of changes in state funding but believes the school could still be more conservative in terms of spending.

"I do think the school system needs to hear a message from voters that if you can get in that much trouble that fast . . . you have to cut," he said. Shaker's last operating levy was passed in 2003. He said that although he is not trying to convince people to vote a certain way, he doesn't "necessarily think more money [would make] a better school" at this point.

OUR TAKE

Find out what the editorial board thinks of the levy.

SHAKER SPEAKS, PAGE 11

Ferrell: lock your locks to deter PE theft

BY SCOTT UNDERWOOD
NOTEWORTHY EDITOR

While it's not uncommon for valuables stored in the men's lockers to be stolen, the reason behind the thefts may surprise you.

According to Head of Security Victor Ferrell, most thefts do not occur because the lockers are ineffective or the security employee present in the room at all times is inept, but rather because students don't use lockers correctly.

Ferrell said security staff members have noticed that when closing lockers, some students close their locks before closing the locker doors. They slam the doors shut, but doors fail to catch with locks already engaged.

Ferrell said students should first close their locker doors, then clasp the locks to ensure items inside remain as safe as possible.

"I understand that students are in a hurry to get to class, but if they take the time to close the lockers correctly, they will not open," Ferrell said.

In Ferrell's opinion, lockers are as safe as the students make them, and he hopes to reemphasize the importance of correct locker procedure to physical education classes to help curb theft.

One recent victim of locker room theft, senior Djibril Gueye, had an iPod MP3 player and more than $120 stolen from his closed locker in the men's locker room. Gueye felt the security guard in the room does a good job of patrolling but can't watch all the lockers all the time.

"People who want to steal will find a way," Gueye said.

SCHOOLING THE TEACHERS

Bobby O'Connor • The Shakerite

TEACHER TYRONE JIMMISON watches as a student flies past him on the way to the basket during the teacher-student basketball game March 22. The students ended up winning the close match 60-57. The game was a fund-raising event sponsored by Youth Ending Hunger.

BRIEFS

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Superintendent reassures community, rising seniors

•In response to board members' questions about **college acceptance** rates, Superintendent Mark Freeman said, "The slowing of the college acceptance rate nationwide has not affected Shaker." Local and national media organizations have reported in recent weeks on the record low acceptance rates at many colleges this year. At Shaker, **41 students from the class of 2005** gained early admission, while between **40 and 45 were admitted early this year,** according to district Director of Communications Peggy Caldwell.
Freeman suggested that the **Common Application**, which allows students to apply to many schools with one online application, and the numbers of students who apply to many schools have fueled the decreasing acceptance rate. High school Principal Michael Griffith also suggested that **Ohio state schools**, such as Miami University and Cleveland State University, have set **tougher admissions standards.**

Community member curious about high school dress code; Freeman says it is out of the board's control

• A community member questioned the board about **dress codes** in response to an article in The Sun Press about a group of high school students and faculty members who are discussing the topic with Griffith. Freeman said the board does not have control over dress codes outside of the official policy in the **Students' Rights and Responsibilities Handbook**. Each school may impose its own restrictions on top of those outlined by the board. The high school, for example, currently allows students to wear hats in the halls and permits any clothing that is **"appropriate to the activities for which it is worn,"** does not "create unusual safety or health hazards" and is not "a distraction to the educational process," according to the handbook.

Compiled by Lauren Weiss

USA news

1. Columbus, Ohio
April 7, 2006

In the upcoming fall sports season, the Ohio High School Athletic Association will be adding men's and women's bowling teams to their list of recognized high school sports. This is the first addition since 1993 when women's golf was adopted and state championships were held. It is estimated that there are roughly 160 men's and 169 women's bowling teams ready to participate come next fall. www.wane.com

2. Winslow Township, N.J.
April 7, 2006

Four Winslow Township High School students were arrested last month after law enforcement officers received information that the teens were planning to kill roughly 25 people during a school lunch period. The students' names were withheld due to their ages, which are between 14 and 16 years old. While authorities say the students had no weapons with which to carry out the attack, if convicted they could face up to 30 years in prison. www.smh.com.au

3. Philadelphia, PA
March 28, 2006

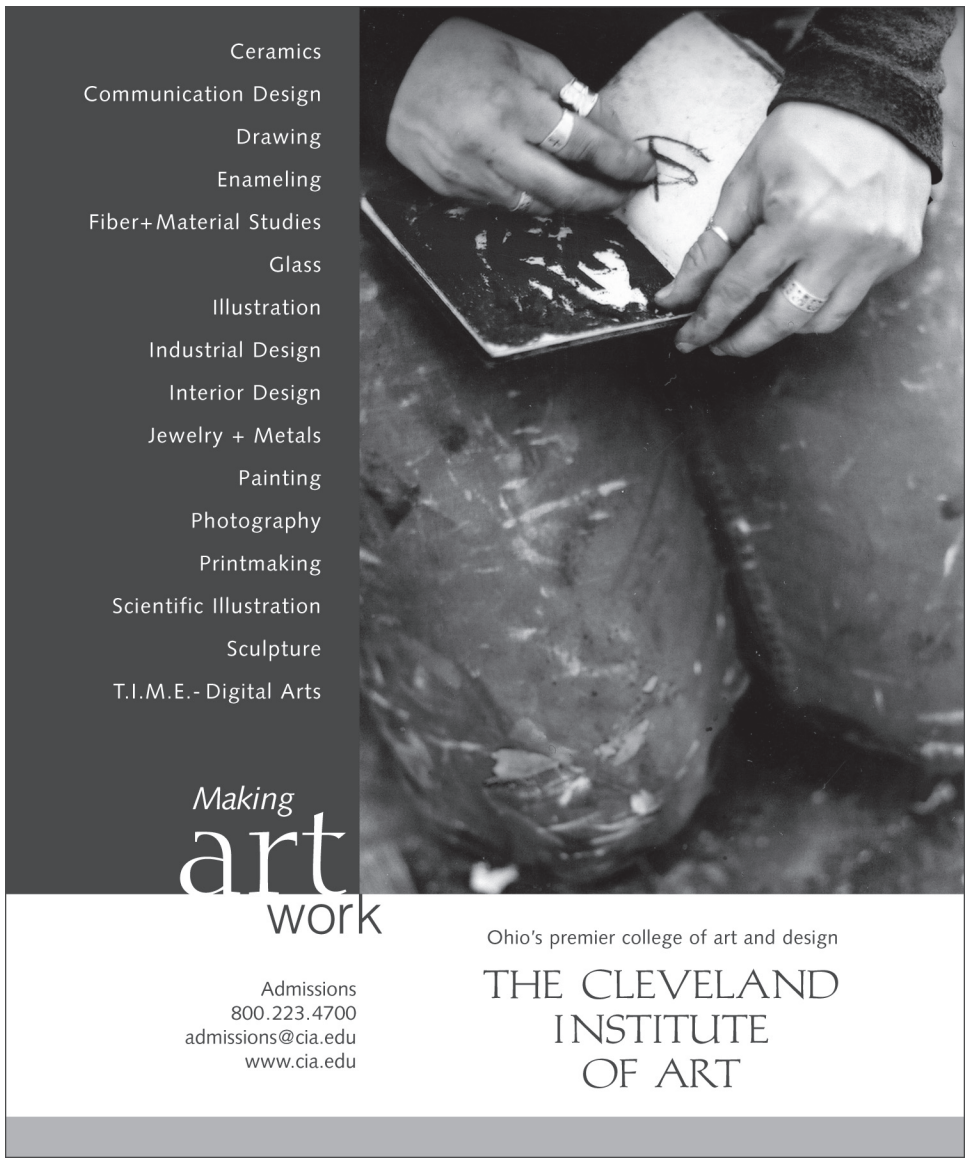
In Philadelphia, teenagers Christopher McEneaney and Andre Mark were teasing a homeless man who was rummaging through a trash can. The teenagers allegedly called the man a "bum" and other names, and the man mooned the teens in response. The teens responded by throwing rocks at him and attacking him. The man later died in a field, but the teens were identified by two witnesses and arrested. www.Wtlv.com

4. Chicago, Ill
March 28, 2006

Last month at Chicago's Kennedy High School, a city police officer was reported to have gotten into a physical altercation with a student. No one was seriously injured in the incident, which occurred during fourth period in the lunchroom. According to student witness Aurelio Hernandez, "[The police officer] punched him first - in the face, I think." The student allegedly involved in the brawl is expected to be charged with battery, police said. www.abc7chicago.com

5. Inglewood, Calif.
April 17, 2006

A new crackdown on illegal immigrants has caused massive protests among Americans – even teens. To prevent walkouts during the rallies, a principal in Inglewood, CA imposed a lock down that was so extreme, the students were not allowed to leave the classroom, forcing them to use buckets in place of toilets. A bill passed by the U.S. House of Representatives last December would make all illegal immigrants felons. New York Times



You have questions.
We have answers.
Planned Parenthood of Greater Cleveland offers confidential appointments with an educator and lowcost reproductive health care services.
$10 OFF
AT ANY GREATER CLEVELAND HEALTH CENTER WITH THIS AD
EXPIRES JUNE 30, 2006
Planned Parenthood® of Greater Cleveland
WWW.PLANNEDPARENTHOOD.ORG/CLEVELAND
Call 800-230-PLAN for the health center nearest you.

"In ties, Catholicism always wins,"
4/3/06

"Did you get orange juice in your hangnail? Because that's what I did."
4/3/06

"So you're saying that you can do Pikachu?"
4/2/06

heard in the halls

"Cocaine will now be referred to as co-candy."
4/1/06

"I'm too heterosexual for MySpace."
3/31/06

Person 1: "Everything is legal in Punta Cana!"
Random passerby: "Naw, man. They haven't made pot legal yet."
4/17/06

The Beat

04.28.06

Diamonds are forever

and so is the credit card debt from the outfit, the endless set of crunches the night before, the back pain from the heels . . .

• High prom costs prompt cancellations nationwide

BY MEGHAN THOMPSON
STAFF REPORTER

Imagine a fun-filled night out with the friends who have helped you survive four years of high school. Priceless, right? Think again.

Prom is becoming an increasingly more expensive event throughout the nation. In fact, some schools have decided to cancel the traditional dance altogether due to the overwhelming stress, anxiety and expenses burdening high school students.

Shortly after Kellenberg Memorial High School in Uniondale, Long Island cancelled its prom, Chaminade High School, an elite private Marianist/Catholic institution located in Mineola, New York on Long Island, announced that it would no longer support a traditional junior or senior prom. According to a letter sent to parents in November 2005, the "prom culture has turned from a formal celebration to a showcase featuring flamboyance, extremism and affluence." The letter stated that while "some parents support their child participating in drinking alcohol, sexual activity, unsupervised sleepovers in the Hamptons or closer," the celebration's decadence is inconsistent with the school's values. Both Kellenberg and Chaminade are run by the same Marianist order.

No surprisingly, the idea of clamping down on prom excess doesn't sit well with students in New York or Shaker.

"I'd be really disappointed if prom was cancelled," senior Julia Shatten said.

Luckily for prom enthusiasts, Shaker has no plans to cancel the traditional dance in coming years.

"To the credit of the students, because the night has been such a success in the past, and the students have behaved wonderfully and shown respect, there is no reason to do anything that's not like a traditional prom," Assistant Principal Eric Hutchinson said. "If [prom] continues on the positive note that it has, everything should remain as it is."

Nevertheless, prom remains costly. According to senior class president Makeda Farley, tickets for this year's dance, themed "Diamonds are forever," cost $45.

"There's a rumor that the price of the prom tickets changes with each class," Farley said. "Someone asked me if the tickets were $100. But I think this year's price is similar to last year's."

According to prom-nite.com, the typical ticket price for proms held outside of a school's gymnasium has increased to around $100-175 per ticket. Compared to this statistic, Shaker's tickets may be viewed as relatively inexpensive.

In addition to tickets for prom, the budget includes a dress or tux, shoes, dinner, a limo and possible salon visits. With all the pressure the media puts on prepping for the big night, it is easy for expenses and body image to spiral out of control. The estimated expense for a girl is $527 and for a boy $203 (thepromsite.com).

Senior Chris Connors said that expense and the organization that the event requires played a role in his decision not to attend prom. "It's a lot of money, and I don't see the point of it. People say that I am going to regret [not attending], but if I am going to after-prom, it's not a big deal," Connors said.

School nurse Paula Dworkin recalls that prom has always been a huge event. "Prom has always been a big deal – [it's] the seniors' big splash event that has gotten bigger and bigger. I wonder about what happens to those who can't afford it," Dworkin stated in an e-mail interview.

Putting aside all the glamour, glitz and expenses, prom represents a time for seniors to celebrate their high school achievements.

"Each year I look forward to prom because it's a time to appreciate the seniors and see their smiles . . . You just get to appreciate all the years that you've been around them," Hutchinson said.

NO PROM ROYALTY FOR SHAKER

Glorified in the movies as the climax of some girls and boys' high school careers, the coveted titles of prom queen and prom king have no home at Shaker. According to Assistant Principal Eric Hutchinson, there is no crown because "it sometimes leads to dissension; it spoils the mood and spirit of young people. Everyone that is there that night is a king or queen, and that is how we'd like [students] to view one another."

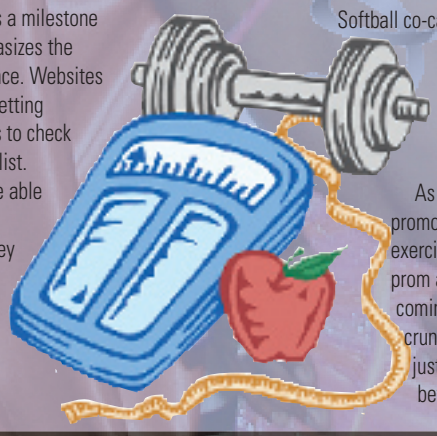
PROM DATES WELCOME, NO MATTER THE GENDER

Shaker's date policy for prom allows both Shaker Heights High School students and outside guests. Contrary to rumor, the date policy does not require special permission from parents if students attend with a member of the same gender. "[Dates of the same gender] are accepted and welcome at the prom," Assistant Principal Eric Hutchinson said. In addition, college students are permitted. "We need for [older guests] to abide by the rules. That night, they're a high school student," Hutchinson said.

BODY IMAGE AND PROM PREPARATION OUT OF CONTROL

The media's portrayal of prom as a milestone event in a young girl's life emphasizes the importance of physical appearance. Websites such as the promsite.com list "getting healthy" as just one of the items to check off on its four-month-long to-do-list. Nevertheless, some students are able to remain unaffected.

"I have heard people say that they want to slim down for prom," senior Makeda Farley said. "But [the media] is no worse than seeing a diet commercial. It doesn't affect me so much."



Softball co-captain Amanda Artman said that the team captains jokingly use prom as motivation to do more crunches. "It's kind of a team joke. As the captains, we try to promote everyone to do [the exercises; we say things like] prom and spring break are coming up. We don't do the crunches for that reason, just to make people feel better about doing them."

by the #'s — PROM EXPENSES

- TICKETS: $45
- DRESS: $150-$500
- ACCESSORIES (SHOES, PURSE, JEWELRY, ETC.): $10-$400
- LIMO: $90-$1,500
- HAIR: $15-150
- PHOTOS: $25-$100
- TUX: $70-$250
- GROOMING (TAN, NAILS, ETC): $25-$150

Compiled by Miriam Moore
Source: USA Today

The Core

04.28.06

• WITH NEARLY 50% OF STUDENTS TRYING IT BY SENIOR YEAR,

marijuana

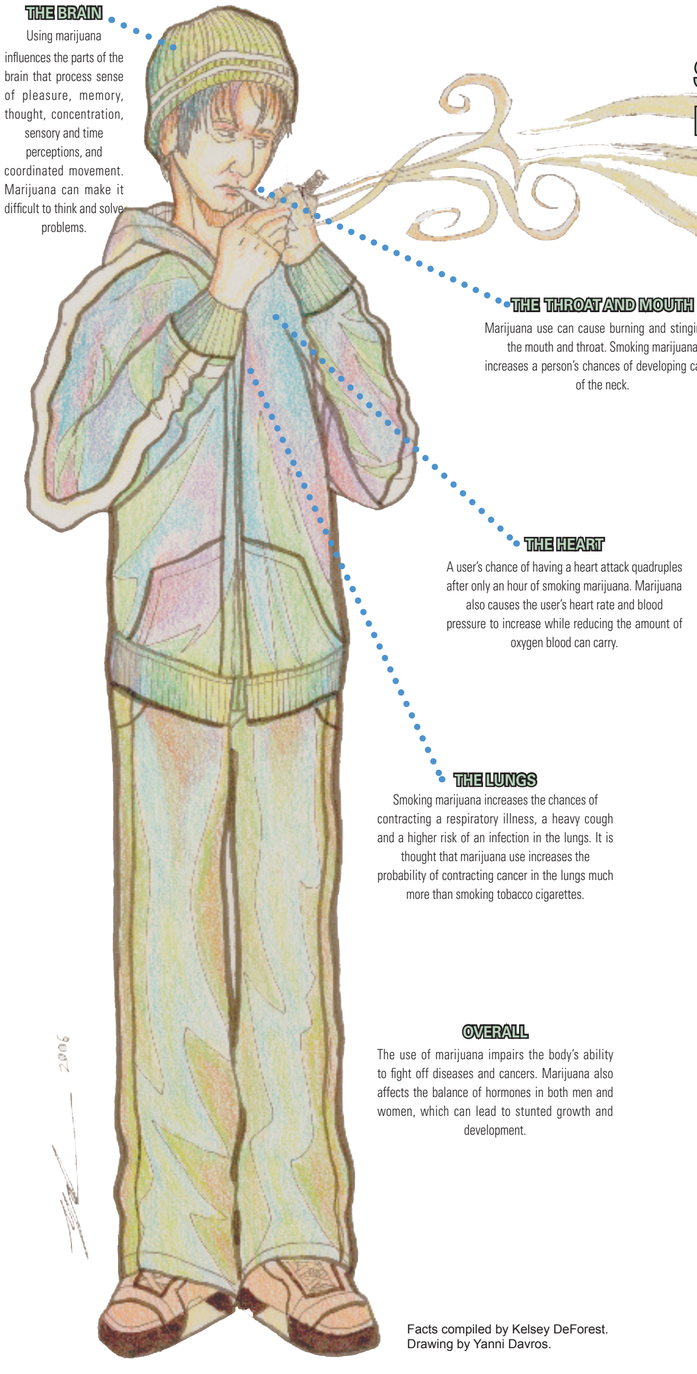
REMAINS TEENS' DRUG OF CHOICE

MARIJUANA AFFECTS MORE THAN YOUR BRAIN

PAGE 8

FIND OUT HOW POT SHOWS UP IN POP CULTURE

PAGE 10


THE BRAIN
Using marijuana influences the parts of the brain that process sense of pleasure, memory, thought, concentration, sensory and time perceptions, and coordinated movement. Marijuana can make it difficult to think and solve problems.
THE THROAT AND MOUTH
Marijuana use can cause burning and stinging in the mouth and throat. Smoking marijuana increases a person's chances of developing cancer of the neck.
THE HEART
A user's chance of having a heart attack quadruples after only an hour of smoking marijuana. Marijuana also causes the user's heart rate and blood pressure to increase while reducing the amount of oxygen blood can carry.
THE LUNGS
Smoking marijuana increases the chances of contracting a respiratory illness, a heavy cough and a higher risk of an infection in the lungs. It is thought that marijuana use increases the probability of contracting cancer in the lungs much more than smoking tobacco cigarettes.
OVERALL
The use of marijuana impairs the body's ability to fight off diseases and cancers. Marijuana also affects the balance of hormones in both men and women, which can lead to stunted growth and development.
2006

Facts compiled by Kelsey DeForest.
Drawing by Yanni Davros.

SMOKING MARIJUANA REMAINS POPULAR DESPITE RISKS, LEAVING SOME STUDENTS . . .

FLYING HIGH

• 'Right now, it can just be a nice relief sometimes,' one student says

BY SARAH BRANDON AND LAUREN WEISS
THE CORE EDITORS

Editors' note: Student names are pseudonyms.

"Weed just relaxes me," said Ashley, a junior and one of the 23 percent of Shaker middle and high school students who have used marijuana, according to the 2004 Youth Risk Behavior Survey. "A lot of people do it, so it's not like I'm extremely different or anything," she added.

On April 20, some Shaker students, like people around the country, celebrate marijuana by gathering with friends to smoke a joint. Brittany, a senior, is one of the students who participate in the tribute, which is also known as "420."

"I usually go to a friend's house, where we eat 'shrooms and smoke [weed out of a] hookah," she said. "Just being together with my friends and feeling good is an awesome experience."

Marijuana, which is derived from the leaves and buds of the Cannabis sativa plant, is the most widely used illegal drug. The survey also indicated that 29 percent of Shaker Heights High School students report having been offered marijuana on school property. Although nationwide the use of marijuana by teens has been declining slightly since the late 1990s, about half of high school students reported using pot in the National Institutes of Health's "Monitoring the Future" study. According to the 2004 study, 49.7 percent of high school seniors nationwide reported having tried marijuana at least once, while only 46.1 percent of seniors reported doing so in 2003.

Principal Michael Griffith said he's seen fewer students smoking marijuana on school property in recent years. However, any student doing drugs concerns him.

"I'm worried about it if it's used at all," Griffith said.

Griffith said teachers are supposed to send students they believe to be under the influence of any drugs to the nurse. He said lethargy, disorientation or just "seeming a little off" could be signs of trouble.

School Nurse Paula Dworkin said she sees a "couple" of students a month who are "impaired."

She does not ask what caused the impairment, but she said students will sometimes be "so stoned they admit that they're stoned."

Dworkin said she talks to students and then sends them to their assistant principals, who call the students' parents and suggest that a drug evaluation be performed.

"My goal is to make sure that they don't pass out and die," said Dworkin, who couldn't recall sending a student to the hospital for marijuana use in the six years she has been at Shaker.

Smoking pot can provoke harsher consequences than a principal's call to parents, however.

Lieutenant Jeff DeMuth of the Shaker Heights Police Department said juveniles caught with marijuana off campus face punishments ranging from a diversion program for first-time offenders to time in a juvenile detention facility. Adults face more serious consequences, including jail time for being caught with pot on school property (a felony).

DeMuth is part of the Shaker Heights Coalition to Prevent Youth Substance Abuse, a group that includes doctors, educators, parents and community members. The coalition attempts to educate students and parents about why drug use is harmful.

"I think we're very effective," DeMuth said. "With our efforts, combined with our community partners, we've seen a trend of declining use."

Dr. John Hertzer, a psychiatrist who works in a private practice in Beachwood, said teens may use marijuana to forget about problems or because they have become addicted.

In an email interview, Hertzer stated that marijuana produces feelings of euphoria and perceptual disturbances. He added that it could also cause paranoia, anxiety, sadness and memory problems.

Chris, a senior, said he sometimes has short-term memory loss and feels "somewhat slowed down."

"I always stop myself before it gets too bad," he said. "I don't consider myself a pot head."

Chris said he started smoking marijuana freshman year after his older sister's friends introduced him to it.

"I thought it was really weird [the first time] because I couldn't stop laughing," he said.

Chris said he smokes about once every two weeks at parties and other social events. He hasn't actually bought the drug in "a while," because he can get it from friends.

Ashley has also acquired marijuana at parties or from friends who have dealers.

"Weed is a lot more accessible than people think," she said, saying she knew one person who used to grow marijuana in his closet.

Ashley said she has used bongs, pop cans and apples to smoke marijuana but that joints or blunts are her preferred methods. (A joint refers to a cigarette that has been emptied of tobacco and filled with marijuana. A blunt is hand-rolled marijuana cigarette. Smoking from a pipe, bowl or bong are other common methods.)

"They're the easiest to make," she said.

Because marijuana is not regulated by a government organization, as legal drugs are, users risk getting marijuana laced with cocaine, PCP or embalming fluid, according to the Center for Substance Abuse Research at the University of Maryland. Such additions can make marijuana more addictive and cause other side effects.

In addition to those dangers, even pure marijuana is considered to be a "gateway drug" – in other words, people who start out using marijuana often move onto harder drugs with more serious consequences.

In addition to the dangers of physical effects, Dworkin said her concerns about marijuana use extend to students' emotional needs.

"It tells me something that they feel the need to be impaired at school," she said.

"It's a red flag. Why would you need to be drunk at 10:30 in the morning?"

Chris, who prefers to smoke with a piece or a pipe, doesn't plan on quitting any time soon.

"I figure at some point, as I get older, it will lose its appeal," Chris said.

"Right now, it can just be a nice relief sometimes."

> "My goal is to make sure that they don't pass out and die"
>
> Paula Dworkin
> school nurse

IS MARIJUANA A MEDICINE?

Marijuana, a drug derived from the cannabis plant, contains the chemical THC, which has a potentially therapeutic value.

Marijuana is prescribed only when other drugs prove ineffective. A synthetic version, Marinol, is available, but it is not as effective. Marijuana is used to:

- treat nausea
- stimulate appetites
- help with some mood disorders
- help with strokes, pain and muscle spasms

Marijuana is approved for medical purposes in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Vermont and Washington. With the exception of Arizona, laws in these states allow patients with certain diseases to grow and use marijuana with approval of a physician and a special ID card. Medical marijuana is legal in Canada, Spain and the United Kingdom.

In Gonzales v. Raich (2005), the Supreme Court ruled that the federal government could prosecute violators of federal drug laws. This ruling also affects state medical marijuana laws, and while it did not overturn the state laws completely, it did override exemptions of patients with medical marijuana from prosecution. Federal prosecutions for use and prescription of medical marijuana have been rare. An April 21 article in "The New York Times" stated that the Food and Drug Administration had found no evidence that marijuana has medical benefits.

Compiled by Kelly Eisele

SHAKER CELEBRATES 420

Urban legends incorrectly claim that 420 is police code for a drug bust. That doesn't stop some students from honoring April 20, a day for the celebration of drug culture.

"Four-twenty is a holiday! I always celebrate it with a blunt," an anonymous junior male said.

The origin of 420 is debated. Scopes.com states the holiday originated with some California high school students who met at 4:20 p.m. every day to smoke.

Last year, 61 students had full-day absences on April 20, a number that doesn't especially stand out. On April 12, 2005, for example, 69 students were absent.

A senior male said that he "doesn't really care" about the day's significance.

"It's also probably the easiest day of the year to get caught, so it's stupid to be walking around the high school smelling like grass," he said.

Compiled by Amanda Orr

POT CRITICS

From country artist Willie Nelson to rapper Sean Paul, from the 1998 movie "Half-baked" to the 2006 Showtime program "Weeds," marijuana is frequently referenced in pop culture. In other words, weed is everywhere. So put your bong down, get comfortable, and take a minute to read our capsule movie reviews and one editor's commentary on popular songs.

MOVIES

Image from impawards.com.

"Half Baked" (1998) – In this comedy, which stars Dave Chappelle as Thurgood and "Sir Smoke-a-Lot," Chappelle and two friends try to post bail for a friend who accidentally kills a horse while on a munchies run. The guys, who spend most of the movie high, try selling pot to raise the $1 million, causing a run-in with rival dealer "Sir Smoke-a-Lot."

"Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle" (2004) – Two stoner roommates go on a quest to find White Castle hamburgers and end up having a hilarious, life-altering night. On their journey, they run into, among others, skateboarders, racist cops and a tow-truck driver with a sexy wife.

"Up in Smoke" (1978) – The first of six comedies written by and starring Tommy Chong and Cheech Marin, "Up in Smoke" follows two goofy stoners as they unknowingly smuggle a van made of marijuana from Mexico to the United States. Not surprisingly, they are pursued by an incompetent police sergeant, but they are too stoned to notice. When they are finally pulled over and asked if they have any marijuana in the vehicle, they respond, "Not anymore, man."

Compiled by Lauren Weiss
from amazon.com and imdb.com.

SONG LYRICS

Ben Harper "Burn One Down"

What do you get when you combine the slow beats of a bongo, Ben Harper's vocal talents and a message about accepting a person who wants to smoke a blunt that's worded so generically it could be applied to any social equality or civil rights movement ("My choice is what I choose to do . . . your choice is who you choose to be . . . you're alright with me")? The perfect stoner song, of course.

Sean Paul: "We Be Burnin' (Legalize It)"

In this articulate masterpiece by our favorite artist who, according one 96.5 KISS FM DJ, smells so much like marijuana that you would get high just standing next to him, Sean Paul describes his enjoyable drug-induced state of euphoria. Yeah, "We be yearnin'. . ."

Toby Keith: "Weed with Willie"

Although enjoying an illegal festivity with a random man named Willie seems like a rockin' old time, waking up "in the fetal position with drool on my chin" is an experience that I'll pass up, thank you.

Bone Thugs N' Harmony: "Weed Song"

It's too bad Bone Thugs are no longer at the height of their fame because their ingenious suggestions for those stuck at home over spring break are not widely heeded: "Kick it at home in America, like it was on in Amsterdam."

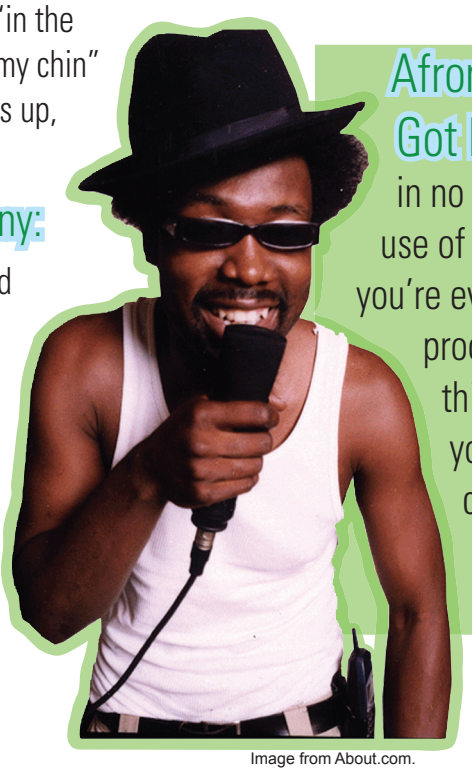


Image from About.com.

Afroman "Because I Got High"

The Shakerite in no way condones drug use of any kind . . . But, if you're ever in need of a failproof excuse for everything from not doing your homework to not cleaning up your room, Afroman has five minutes of inspiration.

Information compiled by Sarah Brandon and Aviva Ariel.

Graphic by Allie Jennings • The Shakerite

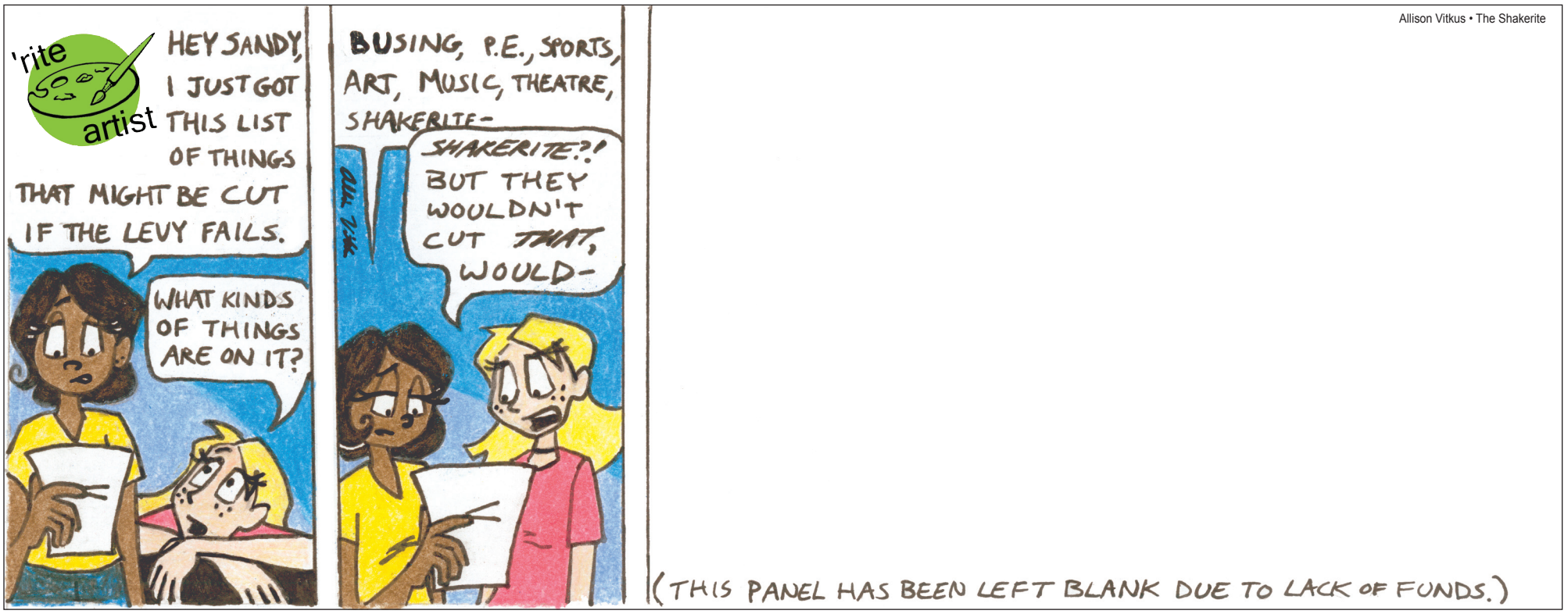
Shaker Speaks

04.28.06

DON'T WASTE YOUR BREATH

Hey Shaker … stop griping about The Shakerite to your friends. Instead, how about … I don't know, writing letters? Throughout the entirety of the school year, The Shakerite staff has made multiple requests for student input in the paper. While we've had an overabundance of Guest 'Rites, we have received a mere two letters. This newspaper is an open forum for student expression. So next time you want to complain about the most recent Shaker Speaks package, don't waste your breath. **Write a letter instead.**

QUALITY EDUCATION COMES AT A PRICE


'rite artist
HEY SANDY, I JUST GOT THIS LIST OF THINGS THAT MIGHT BE CUT IF THE LEVY FAILS.
WHAT KINDS OF THINGS ARE ON IT?
BUSING, P.E., SPORTS, ART, MUSIC, THEATRE, SHAKERITE-
SHAKERITE?! BUT THEY WOULDN'T CUT THAT, WOULD-
(THIS PANEL HAS BEEN LEFT BLANK DUE TO LACK OF FUNDS.)

Allison Vitkus • The Shakerite

• Levy's success essential to maintaining current activities

'rite idea

Will the Shaker schools still exist if the levy fails? Of course. Will the district be able to maintain the high caliber of education it currently offers? No way.

Translation: band trip to Rome, theater electives and reasonably sized classes would be in jeopardy. Do you want to be able to use Jewelry I and II for your art credit? Vote for the levy. Want new technology, new textbooks and teachers who aren't always overwhelmed and cranky? Vote for the levy.

The district would need a 14-mill levy to maintain the current budget. However, in the name of fiscal responsibility (and to give the levy a better chance at passing), the school board voted to place a 9.9 mill levy on the May 2 ballot.

LEVY FACTS

Get all the information you need to make a decision.

NOTEWORTHY, PAGE 4

For an extra $303 in taxes on every $100,000 of taxable property, voters can help ensure that the quality that makes Shaker a top-ranked district continues. If voters fail the levy, however, the school must cut nearly $15 million, which would affect "every facet of the school," according to Superintendent Mark Freeman.

Since roughly 75 percent of the budget is set (energy costs, for example), the fastest way to cut that money would be in staff reduction. If the district must lay off teachers or not replace those who retire, class sizes will skyrocket. Students will receive less individualized attention, and extracurricular activities and clubs could end as they lose faculty advisers.

The district would also be forced to cut supplies, leaving schools equipped with out-of-date computers and consistently-broken copiers, and students at a disadvantage compared with their peers.

The district is not to blame for our financial conundrum. The state has cut nearly $6 million in funding from the district's almost $80 million annual budget. In addition, transportation, energy and special education costs have been rising dramatically.

The levy will support the services the district already provides, not expand its offerings. Though Ohio's funding system has been ruled unconstitutional three times, the state legislature has yet to fix it. While public schools wait for much-needed relief, the burden falls on taxpayers to keep the schools functioning.

Shaker is a community with a long history of supporting levies. As residents pay the highest property taxes in the state, it might seem unreasonable to ask taxpayers to shoulder an additional tax burden. However, the cost of living and the costs of running a school system are increasing steadily – it is not as though the district is asking for more money as costs go down.

As members of this community, we have a responsibility to support our schools. While the levy will raise taxes, the money is vital to preserve the quality of the Shaker schools and ensure that all Shaker students receive the kind of education the district prides itself on. A community is known by the schools it keeps – and Shaker needs to keep its standards high.

TOP TEN CHANGES IN THE SCHOOL IF THE LEVY FAILS

top 10

10. No Shakerite. (Come on, you'd miss it).

9. Pay-to-play Chess Club.

8. Math class with 49 of you closest friends.

7. Pay to use the pencil sharpener.

6. Five dollar nachos at the snack bar.

5. Dr. Freeman sells candy in the halls.

4. Hockey tickets: $25 (and that's without scalping).

3. No heat . . . ever.

2. Welcome to Russell H. Rupp, er, Chipotle-Kokopelli Stadium.

Chipotle

1. Rent out the south gym.

Inside the board room

Everyone told us it would be the most boring two hours of our lives. A school board meeting? Who wants to go to those? Eight people sitting around talking money and school policy sounds like a terrible way to spend your night. We went the first time to cover the board for The Shakerite. We've gone every month since for fun.

EMILY GRANNIS

The Board of Education hires teachers, makes funding decisions, buys buses and makes sure we all have solid floors to walk on. There are six standing (voting) members, plus the superintendent and the treasurer, who add to the discussion. The meetings also include, of course, the colorful studio audience.

The audience, however, is missing the most obvious people - students.

We're the ones the board's decisions affect and we should be there to tell them what we think (or at least make them sweat a little), especially because most of us don't have a say in who sits there. So we've come up with a list of why it's worth your time to pay our buddies a visit.

LAUREN WEISS

Reason one: you make new friends. Jane Wood, this one goes out to you. It's amazing how much respect we minors can earn just by showing up. At first the adults thought we were just there for government hours. Three meetings in they were greeting us by name, calling on us for questions and looking genuinely surprised if we made it through a meeting without speaking. Go and talk – they'll listen.

Reason two: the superintendent suddenly becomes much more human. Though we've spent four years pestering Dr. Freeman for information, we found him very forthcoming at the meetings, especially when other members were trying to get a word in edge-wise. On the rare occasions when he did not want to talk he resorted to two standard facial expressions: the slump and scowl (for when certain community members stood to offer their invaluable advice) and the artful nod and dodge. (Got a question you don't like? Say "thank you" and toss it over to another board member).

Reason three: You learn how the school works. These people control the district – therefore, they control you. Watch Big Brother in action and make sure they hear what students are thinking before they make their unanimous decisions. And in case you're worried about not understanding, district Treasurer Bryan Christman and Director of Communications Peggy Caldwell are always happy to help.

So board members, now that we've talked you all up, it's time to make a few changes. How about a non-unanimous decision every once in a while just to let us know you're all paying attention? It's not that we disagree with any decision you've made, but that much agreement lends a frightening sense of conformity.

In that vein, a shout out to Annette Tucker Sutherland is in order. You have asked the most questions and proven yourself to be a wonderful addition to the board.

Finally, the pompoms and mini-skirts have got to go. You're not cheerleaders. You're elected officials – recognize the real Shaker and try to change what needs to be addressed. Love it for what it is but more for what it could be.

And please, move the water pitchers away from the microphones!

AN EXIT STRATEGY THAT WILL NEVER FLY

Principal Michael Griffith despises congestion of all forms. Earlier this year he and the administration announced that the two main stairways of Shaker Heights High School were to become one-directional, a policy that hypothetically eases hallway congestion.

Mr. Griffith regularly reports traffic to radio stations while driving (via his hands-free cell phone), is rumored to be the mastermind behind Shaker Heights' new traffic light plan, always stands on the right side of escalators and walks on the left, and just last month he bought a new box of Kleenex® to ease the nasal congestion of his co-workers in the main office.

NATE O'HALLORAN

"What can I say?" Griffith said in a telephone interview last evening. "I simply prefer things to run smoothly and efficiently. Besides, have you tried these new Kleenex® Anti-Viral Tissues? They kill germs and moisten your nose!"

Well, Mr. Griffith has done it again. In a memo to the high school faculty, Mr. Griffith outlined his latest solution to alleviate hallway congestion during lunch periods and when school ends.

"The idea occurred to me as I was walking through the hallways one afternoon. I thought of all the students jostling each other trying to leave and of those pushing against these students in an attempt to enter," Griffith recalled during the telephone interview, before swiftly clarifying, "This was after school of course; you should never be strolling along the hallways during class periods."

Recently approved by the Board of Education, the plan entails all ground floor exits to become entrances only. New exits will be created on the second floor by modifying all windows to meet the Federal Building Exit Act's standards, though the majority would only be used in case of emergency.

guest 'rite

If there were a fire, the emergency exits would automatically open and self-inflating slides (similar to those found on airplanes) would extend toward the ground.

In the memo, Griffith betrayed a slight enthusiasm over the possibility that zip lines be used to simplify exiting for homeward bound students. In a bold, italicized, size 20 font, Griffith commented, "[Students] could slip their backpacks over the wire and fly out of the building in mere seconds!!"

Vic Ferrell, director of security, expressed concern that some students might not heed the policy and continue to cause hallway congestion.

"We simply do not have enough guards to post at every entrance and exit to enforce the policy," Ferrell fretted during an interview. "We could have some serious problems if a student were to climb up a zip line because his or her classroom was near that exit."

A survey found that four out of five doctors recommend the new policy, Dr. Yvonne Allen (English teacher) being the sole dissenter.

"My nerves would never be able to handle [zip lines]," explained Dr. Allen in edited standard exasperation. "I mean, do I look like a zip-lining gal to you? Je pense que non!"

One student expressed eager anticipation for the new "In" and "Out" and "45° Down" arrows, but mostly students and faculty members alike are looking forward to Griffith's latest step backward in solving hallway congestion.

ENSEMBLE FEATURED AT FUSION FEST '06

Shaker's Senior Ensemble will continue its Cleveland tour May 9. Last September, the theater troupe performed twice at the Ingenuity Festival downtown. Next month they will be the only public school to participate in Fusion Fest '06 - a festival that showcases new performance works at the Cleveland Playhouse. The Ensemble will perform "A Child Went Forth," which showcases poetry, song and movement, at the Brooks Theater located in the Cleveland Playhouse at 8500 Euclid Ave. Showtime is 7 p.m. and tickets cost $9. The piece was created by students, alumni, Shaker staff and artists from around the nation.

Dan Snider • The Shakerite

JEALOUS ONE'S ENVY members Lonique Cox, Aaron Patterson, I'sha Little, Andrew Patterson, Stacia Clark, James Burkes and Danielle Woods practice for the April 21-22 Modern Dance Club show. They were guests in the performance.

J1E ENVIES SUCCESS AND GETS IT

BY AVIVA ARIEL
EDITOR IN CHIEF

When Bad Boy Records mogul Sean "Diddy" Combs adds a new artist to his record label, you know that musician is hot.

And when that budding star chooses a team of backup dancers for her upcoming tour, you know they have to be talented and on point.

That's exactly why Cheri Dennis, "The Bad Boy Princess," chose Jealous One's Envy, a group composed of three Shaker students and six others, to follow her to Atlanta to begin her voyage into super stardom.

But for J1E, the journey started in September 2004 when founding member Aaron Patterson started practicing with Shaker's Modern Dance Club.

"When I first came to Shaker [at the start of eleventh grade], I had been in dance groups before that," the senior said. "But the people in it went on to college . . . We started J1E up at the school with some people from Dance Club. We didn't think too serious about it, but it got serious and we started using people outside of Shaker."

Currently the group consists of Patterson, sophomores Cedrit Leonard and Lanique Cox, eighth grader Raven Holman and her sister, senior Stacia Clark, Patterson's twin brother Andrew, Shaw High School senior I'sha Little, Kennedy junior Danielle Woods, and South High School senior James Burkes.

For the Patterson, being in a dance group was a long time coming. "Seeing performances like when people performed at award shows inspired me," said Patterson, who started dancing with Andrew, who goes to Solon High School, when he was 5 years old. "I don't really pay attention to the singers; I pay attention to background dancers. That's what keeps me going."

Leonard, one of the group's founding members, believes it was Patterson and "watching other people perform" that encouraged him to pursue dancing, and he couldn't be happier with his choice to join J1E. "[We're] like a family," said Leonard, who is also in SGORR and Modern Dance Club.

According to Patterson, the group was intertwined with Shaker's Modern Dance Club at its beginning. "When we first started our group, we practiced [in the dance studio at the high school], but we didn't want to interfere with Dance Club," he said. "It used to be like, 'Oh J1E is Dance Club,' but we didn't want to it be like that. We had to break that off."

Pamela Corbin, Modern Dance Club adviser, describes the members of J1E involved in April's club show as having "raw talent."

"I can see who will go far," said Corbin, who notes the dancers' auditions as memorable performances. "[But] if they want to go further, they will have to take outside classes."

Once the hip-hop group settled into a routine of practicing four or five times a week at manager Cherri Clark's house or at the Randall Park Mall Recreation Center, the dancers began performing in the community.

"Little people started seeing us and they would tell people of higher ranks about us," Patterson said of the talent shows and local performances the group has participated in. "Eventually we got people in the industry to see us."

And the rest is history in the making. "We performed at the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame [this past January]. Someone with Cheri Dennis told her after she left about us and was like, 'That group that came in after you left . . . they're real, real good,' " Patterson said.

Since their start in September 2004, the group has won "countless" contests and talent shows. Leonard's favorite victory came when the group won first place in the African-American Festival Day – an event that showcases local talent and culture over the summer. The group won $300 for their performance.

Recently, J1E danced with back-up crews who have worked with Omarian and the Ying Yang Twins, and in March they performed with the dancers from LL Cool J's newest music video at the Golden Scissors Awards Show in Atlanta.

At the end of June, J1E will fly to Atlanta to start their tour with Dennis and then over the summer they will head to Detroit. Meanwhile, Patterson is leaving his options open for next year.

"It all depends on what's going on with the whole dance situation. I might be going on tour. I might have to move to Atlanta," said Patterson, who would attend the University of Akron or the University of Toledo if he chooses to move on to college next year. "Depends on my dance career for where I'm going [after high school]."

Uncertainty, however, does not seem to faze Patterson. After years of hard work, he is an optimist. "It's all starting to payoff," he said.

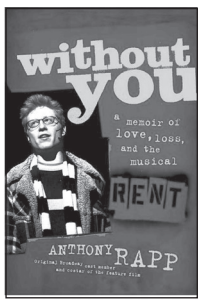
Josh Davidson contributed to this story.

AARON PATTERSON REHEARSES some of his routine before the April dance show.

Bobby O'Connor • The Shakerite

All you need to be cultured

Get this

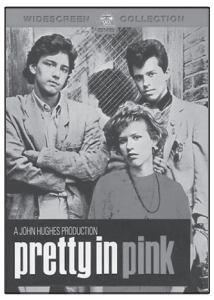


"WITHOUT YOU: A MEMOIR OF LOVE, LOSS AND THE MUSICAL RENT" BY ANTHONY RAPP

A **must-read** book for any lover of the musical or movie "Rent." This memoir tells Rapp's story from the beginning of auditions for "Rent" to the present. Though sad, you must read this book to call yourself a "Rent" fan.

"WICKED: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF THE WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST" BY GREGORY MAGUIRE

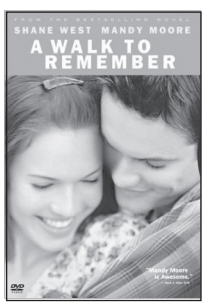
This novel offers a new twist on a classic and is the inspiration for the **Broadway musical "Wicked."** The novel is smart and will expand your vocabulary. It's snarky and you might feel sorry for the Wicked Witch of the West.



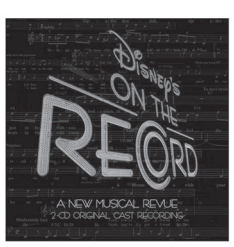
"PRETTY IN PINK"

To be culturally literate, you must see at least one **"Brat Pack"** film. And what better way to do it than to watch a prom movie right before prom? Plus, if you've ever been in love with your best friend and he/she was in love with the most popular kid in school, you can commiserate with Ducky.

"A WALK TO REMEMBER"



This film is an amazing love story that will have **any girl crying** by the end. We know guys don't want to sit through another chick flick, but you will be able to be there for your girl and give her a shoulder to cry on. We'd love to give you plot details, but we don't want to ruin it. Plus, the film has an impressive soundtrack.



"ON THE RECORD" ORIGINAL CAST RECORDING

All your **favorite Disney songs** are together on this soundtrack. With new renditions of old songs such as "Be Our Guest," this is the best medley of Disney songs out there. Relive your childhood through songs you grew up with.

"MOVE ALONG" THE ALL-AMERICAN REJECTS

Prepare yourself for one of the best concerts this year. The All-American Rejects (with Hawthorne Heights and Fall Out Boy) will be at Blossom May 7. "Move Along" is the Rejects' first CD with Interscope Records. If you're going to the concert, make sure you know the songs.

Compiled by Liz Kantor

DRESSING THE PART

• After Myers' departure, students take the lead in costume design

BY COURTNEY MCCLELLAND
STAFF REPORTER

"Romeo and Juliet" just wouldn't be the same if Romeo was wearing sweats and Juliet was wearing jeans.

Theater Department Chairperson Christine McBurney said costume design is an important element of theater because "people are such visual animals."

"It helps the audience to identify the time period, wealth, status and even the education level of a character," McBurney explained. "For example, if someone is wearing a top hat, you would know that they are not from the 21st Century."

Foster

Since the January 2006 retirement of Kelly Myers, the former head of costume design, the theater department has been capitalizing on the skills she left them with.

"Both the students and staff miss her immensely," McBurney said. "She was very talented and a wonderful collaborator who brought our productions to life."

Taking her place are senior Sarah Ratner and sophomore Katherine Foster, who are interested in the creation and direction of costume design.

Ratner

"When I was younger I started taking sewing lessons, and I've been interested in fashion design for four years," said Foster, who thinks that organization is key for a good designer.

Ratner also took sewing classes when she was younger and is interested in design, art, fashion and drawing.

"I actually don't feel like we've replaced her, because it would be impossible to replace a person like Mrs. Myers, but it's fun working with all of the costumes," Ratner said.

Foster and Ratner are responsible for the designing and sewing of costumes and for taking care of the costume cages, where the unused costumes are stored.

"I usually like to sketch out my ideas, and then either I can find something that I like in the costume cages, or I go thrifting to find what I want," Ratner said.

While not costly, costume design does take a lot of time.

"Theater is a hand-made art, so costume production consists of a lot of labor," McBurney said. A typical Shaker production requires about 50 costumes, and materials depend on the era in which the show is set.

"Some periods require a more layered look," McBurney said.

In "Twelfth Night," which was performed in December 2005, senior Eric Brakey played the role of Sebastian.

"It was set in ancient Greece, so the costumes were a big part of the show because of the different culture," Brakey said. "Even the fabric was different, it was a lot more flowing."

Foster said the costume process begins with the script.

"I read the script to get a basic idea of what the show is about, and then I talk with the director about what their vision is," Foster said. "We have to discuss all of the aspects, like what colors and textures of fabric we want to use to match the setting."

"We have a fair amount of freedom while designing the costumes, although there is always the chance that you'll finish everything and the director won't like any of it," Foster said. "You have to be open to criticism and be able to take advice."

One of Ratner's favorite costume jobs came during her sophomore and junior years when she was in charge of designing for New Stages.

"Since New Stages is seven different shows, it was like I got to design for seven totally different productions, with different themes and settings" Ratner said. She has also designed costumes for two Shakescenes performances and the Shaker production of "Pippin."

Everything comes together during tech week, which includes a costume parade to show the director the final products. This is the last chance for any changes to be made, and the students are able to try on all of the costumes.

"I like to be able to see what has come out of the directors' vision," McBurney said.

Photo by Neal E. Hamilton courtesy of Christine McBurney

SENIOR ERIC BRAKEY and junior Eileen Lalley show off their costumes during a dress rehearsal of "Twelfth Night" in December 2005.

SOCCER COACH CONTROVERSY HEATS UP

BY MIKE YOUNG
RAIDER ZONE EDITOR

Coaching stability is a key to athletic success. For proof, look no further than the Shaker sports program, where coaches such as Allan Slawson, who has been head tennis coach for 26 seasons, have achieved unbridled success.

On the other hand, look at the men's soccer team, currently working its fourth head coach in nine years and building a reputation for meddling parents. Over the past nine years, the soccer team has gone 83-47-21 overall.

According to former assistant soccer coach Doug Myles, who teaches at the middle school, stability helps a team succeed. "It seems to me that more successful teams and programs have coaches for extended periods of time," he said. "This is true for most sports . . . It takes time to establish a system that players can grow into."

Myles resigned in January after three years as assistant varsity coach. Myles' resignation came two months before head coach Geoff Gainford announced his resignation after three years on the job and a 21-20-10 overall record. Gainford described his reasons for resigning as "personal." Gainford would not elaborate but, according to players, he is pursuing a master's degree and wants to spend more time with his family. In addition, JV coaches Pete O'Neill and Carl Damian were not retained.

Long before it was announced that these soccer coaches were not returning, soccer parent Fritz Neil started the Organization of Parents for Soccer Excellence, which Neil described as an organization designed to "improve soccer to a level of excellence like other athletic programs at Shaker." According to Neil, the soccer program does not reach the standards of other programs in the area and other sports at the high school.

Within OPASE, parent participation in the group is broad, including parents of players in grades eight through 11 as well as those of JV and varsity players and starters and reserves. Eighth grade parents, Neil said, were included because they would soon be coming through the program.

Although the team compiled a winning record this season, teams Neil characterized as elite, such as Lakewood, were receiving better coaching. "They had the kind of coaching that we felt Shaker should have," he said.

Neil would not specifically critique Gainford but he did claim that Gainford was not connecting to Shaker's youth soccer program, which Neil estimated to have 500-600 youths involved. "We felt the previous coaching staff was not plugged into these groups where they could learn to coach at a higher level," Neil said.

He cited the women's program as a model. "Women's varsity coach Tom Fowler also coaches the girls U-14 program for those who are about to enter the high school," he said.

That was one of the proposals soccer parents, led by Neil, made during an organized meeting with Gainford and Athletic Directors Susan Brown and David Sedmak. They proposed that Gainford begin coaching the boy's U-14 team.

Also, parents proposed that Gainford apply for a U.S. Soccer "D" coaching license, which requires that a coach attend workshops and seminars. In order to upgrade to a "C" license or higher, a coach must attend additional seminars. According to Neil, Gainford agreed to get a coaching license at first but later decided he would not.

Gainford would not comment on the situation.

The meeting, according to Brown, was an informative meeting with the soccer parents. "Each parent took responsibility to talk about the program," she said. "[We discussed] what is most important and what should be happening with the program." Brown said that in addition to the U-14 team coaching and license proposals, the parents discussed how to conduct practices and what students should gain from playing soccer.

Dan Snider • The Shakerite
SOPHOMORE JOHN BEARD dribbles the ball down the field.

In an e-mail response addressed to a soccer parent who stopped attending OPASE meetings, Neil explained his view. "Through our boys playing on club teams, we learned what good soccer coaching is," he stated. "We felt that it was important to convey . . . that the Shaker Heights program just did not measure up to what a good high school program should be." The parent, who did not provide the e-mail to The Shakerite, refused comment.

Junior John Thomas believes that it is difficult to compare club coaches with high school coaches. "The coaching and style of play are different, and our parents pay for it," he said. "Parents help run it, basically, and plus, some of these coaches are internationally recruited . . . If parents and players want better coaching, perhaps they should go to a school where soccer is a higher priority."

Despite the turmoil, junior Connor Nobert remains optimistic for the upcoming season. "We did well last season and there was really not anything Gainford did wrong," he said. "We're in a position to do well this year; we only lost one starter."

Limited involvement better for soccer

SOCCER COACH RESIGNATIONS:

While we respect the expressed need for family time and other obligations cited for the resignations of soccer coaches Doug Myles and Geoff Gainford, we cannot underestimate the amount of parental pressure placed on them. A group of soccer parents, led by Fritz Neil, started the Organization of Parents for Soccer Excellence, which, according to Neil, wants to "Raise [the soccer] program to a level consistent with the Shaker Heights standards for excellence." Apparently soccer's "Shaker Heights standards for excellence" should approach our National Merit Scholar record, or at least the status of the hockey, football, swimming and tennis programs. What these parents don't realize, however, is that those programs have flourished because of consistency at the head coaching position, whereas the soccer program has struggled under four coaches in the past nine years. Excessive parental pressure only undermines coaches' ability to do their jobs.

MIKE YOUNG

DAVID O'CONNELL

RAIDER BASEBALL AT THE JAKE:

The baseball team might've been mad that their home game against LEL rival Mentor had been taken away. But when they heard that they'd instead play that game May 5 at Jacobs Field, it more than made up for the lack of a match on Shaker's diamond. Considering Indians owner Larry Dolan will squeeze a penny out of anything, here's hoping that our Raiders don't have to pay to get into the stadium. Maybe they'll get lucky and get a free T-shirt or something.

BASEBALL PART TWO:

Baseball field workers have put away the Scott's Turf Builder for a while because of the re-construction of the baseball field. After putting down the new sod and infield dirt in the fall, members of the baseball team have enjoyed the way the new field plays. Then again, anything is better than the "Shaker hop" era, when routine ground balls would eat infielders alive because of shoddy field conditions. "One thing we have to get used to is staying down on the ball because we're used to the old field, which had a lot of bad hops," sophomore infielder River McWilliams said.

STEROID INVESTIGATIONS:

Recently, MLB and Commissioner Bud Selig announced they would investigate steroid usage within baseball's past (a past that begins in September 2002). The announcement came just weeks after the release of the book "Game of Shadows," which details steroid usage by players – specifically, Barry Bonds. The announcement begs the questions: Why did the release of the book suddenly open the eyes of baseball's authorities? Really, what is this investigation going to prove? Is baseball going to gather enough evidence to merit punishing players? If so, does MLB have the authority to suspend anybody as a result of this investigation? This process is already an unsuccessful attempt to cover up for baseball's steroid-scarred past.

CLASS OF '06!! CLASS OF '06!! CLASS OF '06!!

A.P.* IT'S NOT JUST A TEST ANYMORE
***After Prom**
"Jammin' Jamaica"

Sunday, May 14 1:00 a.m. - 5:00 a.m.
Mandel JCC
@$20.00 a ticket, After Prom is a real steal. You get Blackjack, Texas Hold 'em, a money machine, DJ music, dancing, food, keepsake photos with friends and much, much more.
Check out *www.shaker.org/pto/afterprom for complete information.*
Tickets will be on sale with prom tickets in the Eli Gallery
April 24-28, May 1-5
During lunch both weeks, after school the second week

Raffle tickets come with your After Prom ticket and will be drawn throughout the evening for prizes such as
Video iPod, Nano iPod, Bose Headphones, Portable DVD Player,
iPod Clock Radio Home System
(YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN)

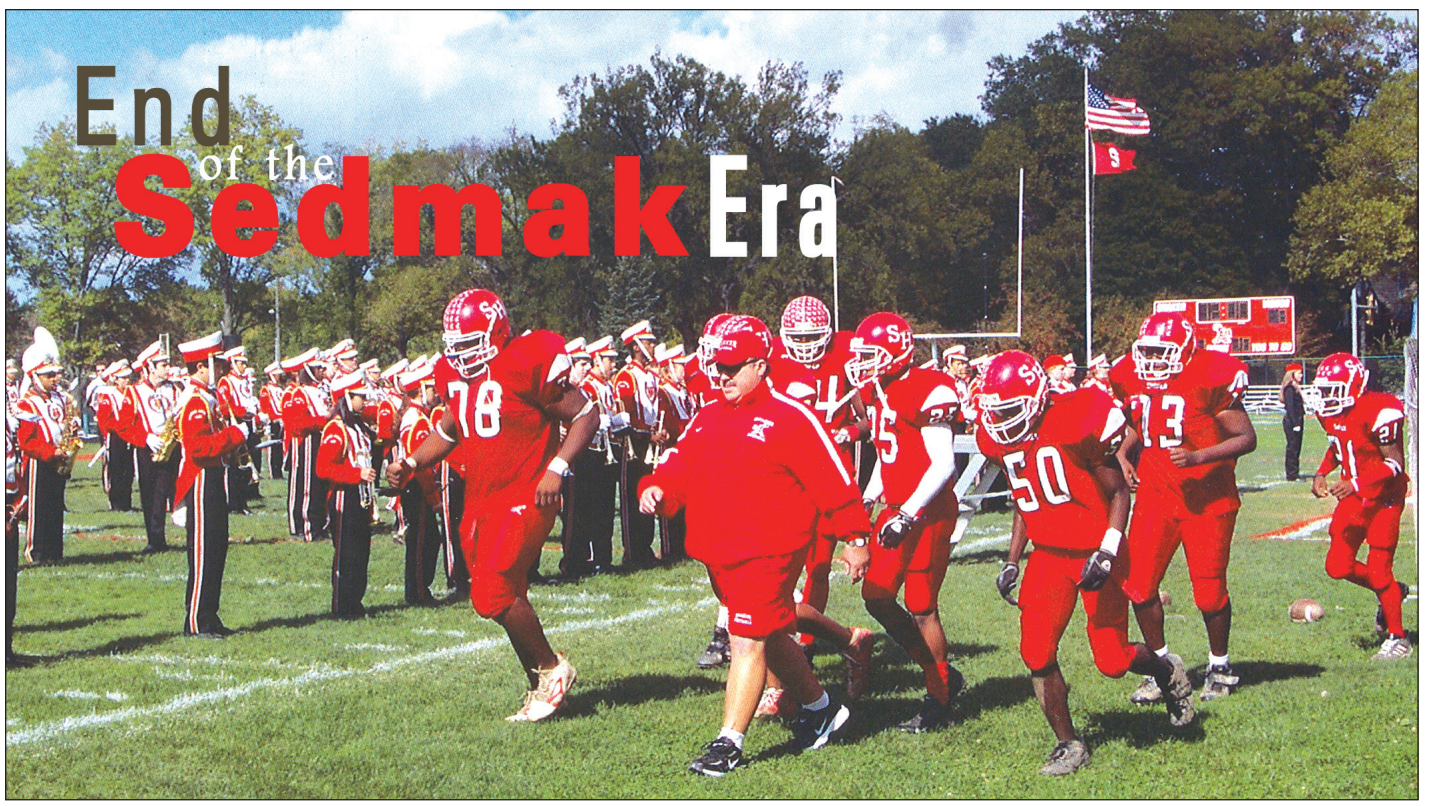
CLASS OF '06!! CLASS OF '06!! CLASS OF '06!!

FENCING TEAM FINDS THEIR WAY TO FIRST STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

The other teams were foiled again when Shaker touchéd their way to the state fencing championships in Columbus, winning titles in both the men's and women's competition. In Shaker's best event, the men's team defeated Dublin Coffman High School and Upper Arlington, overcoming a 122-95 deficit and winning the championship. Stephen Cabrera placed second in the foil, and David Coscarelli tied for third in the foil and epee. Carolyn Stange and Akosua Kernizan tied for third in the sabre. Overall, Shaker slashed the competition to bring home the Raiders' first ever awards in the state championships.

Raider Zone

04.28.06



Courtesy of Shaker Heights Football

MARCHING OUT WITH the team, head football coach Dave Sedmak leads the Raiders before the game against Cincinnati Princeton Sept. 25. After 13 seasons, Sedmak is moving.

End of the Sedmak Era

• Football coach heads to Dayton with 99-40 record, 7 playoff appearances

BY DAVID O'CONNELL
RAIDER ZONE EDITOR

Rumors ran throughout the halls concerning Dave Sedmak and his future as the head football coach of Shaker Heights.

For that reason, Sedmak held a team meeting Feb. 15 in the weight-training room.

Sedmak

Several members of the returning football squad came to meet with the coach, all feeling concern about Sedmak's future at Shaker and how it would affect their season. Athletes sat on vacant bench-press equipment and plyometric boxes while awaiting Sedmak, who arrived and announced the reason for the meeting.

"You may have heard some rumors," the 13-year Shaker football coach said. "My wife is a business executive and was offered a job in Dayton, Ohio . . . Since she sacrificed for me over the years, I'm sacrificing for her," Sedmak said.

Sedmak will finish out the year as the athletic director and will look for another coaching position in the Dayton area.

"Once I find a job, I will end my coaching job at Shaker," he said.

Sedmak, who played football at Allegheny College, began his coaching career at Beachwood High School before becoming the head coach for Shaker in 1993. He finishes his tenure at Shaker with a 99-40 record.

Sedmak was unofficially offered a teaching job at Hamilton High School in Dayton and will serve as an assistant coach. Junior receiver Andre Johnson understands the coach's decision.

"I feel that he's gotta do what he's gotta do to support his wife," he said. "I really don't have a problem with it."

Johnson, however, is upset about playing next year without Sedmak coaching from the sideline.

"It's unfortunate he's leaving our senior year," Johnson said.

Candidates for the head-coaching job are quarterback coach Tim Richards ('85) and defensive back coach Anthony "Beano" Watkins ('82), two members of the present coaching staff. The new coach will likely adhere to Sedmak's philosophy and systems. Nevertheless, junior defensive back Sean Gibson thinks change is inevitable in the program.

"The influence on the team and coaching staff will change, for better or worse," Gibson said.

Sedmak was known for teaching his football players life skills. Each player receives a "winner's manual," containing stories, vocabulary and quotes pertaining to issues that can be used off of the football field. "The inspirational stories and legends that we get from his manual are stories that we can relate to real life experiences, not just football," Woodard said.

During his tenure, Sedmak compiled eight Lake Erie League titles, seven playoff appearances and three undefeated seasons. The Raiders finished 6-5 last fall and lost to St. Edward after qualifying for the state playoffs.

Senior defensive back Jon Hudson has enjoyed being a part of Sedmak's team.

"I feel privileged to be part of the last group to work with him," Hudson said. "It's unfortunate our season ended the way it did for his last season, but everything happens for a reason."

by the #'s

SEDMAK SHAKER COACHING CAREER

3 undefeated seasons '94, '98, '00

7 playoff appearances

8 LEL Championships

13 years as head coach at Shaker

6-5 record last fall

99-40 record

Compiled by Amanda Orr

Backstop Murphy throws out gender roles at SMS

BY TEDDY CAHILL
STAFF REPORTER

For one Shaker Middle School student, the historical movie "A League of Their Own" is nothing more than fiction.

Instead of playing softball or, like the Rockford Peaches, playing baseball on a women's team, Cara Murphy is playing hardball with the boys.

"I've played baseball all my life and I like the game," said Murphy, an eighth grader. "It's what I do."

Murphy finds baseball more challenging than softball. "It's harder, faster than softball," Murphy said. "They're completely different games."

Some disagree with Murphy playing baseball considering Shaker also has a middle school softball team. "I think it would be great to play with her if she were good enough, but I think she should play softball," said senior Chaz Leftridge, who plays pitcher and shortstop.

Murphy says that she has rarely had any problems from her teammates. "I've had some problems in the summer leagues, but not here," Murphy said.

By law, a girl must be permitted to play sports if her school doesn't offer a comparable sport specifically for female athletes. Softball is not considered comparable because of the different pitching styles. In softball a pitcher throws underhand from the same level as the batter; whereas in baseball the pitcher throws overhand from a raised mound.

The team is undefeated with a record of 6-0 including wins over Euclid, Warrensville and Maple Heights. Murphy is hitless in the limited at-bats. "I have been DH-ing [designated hitting] for her, and she is working very hard at improving her hitting skills," said head coach Michael Babinec

If Murphy makes the baseball team next year she would be only the third girl to play on a Shaker high school men's team. Abra Kinkoph played high school hockey in 2000. Brandi Turner ('04) played on the JV football team in 2002.

Murphy, however, is unsure about playing at the high school next season. "I don't know. I think I want to," Murphy said.

CALLING THE PITCH, Cara Murphy sets up behind the plate in a game against Roxboro Middle School. Murphy, who is an eighth grader at Shaker Middle School, plays on the boy's baseball team. If she plays for the high school baseball team, she would be the third female in recent years to play on a men's sports team.

Dan Snider • The Shakerite